

FTR

Catherine Meriano
136 Limewood Ave
Branford, CT 06405

Date: 3/6/14

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5249
AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES.

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am a professor of occupational therapy as well as a practicing clinician. I currently work as a clinician in an outpatient setting in Guilford, CT. I would like to request that you pass Raised Bill No. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546), which similarly limited the co-payments for physical therapy services.

Because I work in a practice where PT/OT/SLP are all available, we see many individuals with acute or progressive neurological diagnosis. Recovery from acute neurological illness, such as stroke, or the ongoing battles of function with progressive diagnosis, such as Parkinson's Disease often require OT over a period of time. For clients to have to pay up to \$50 a visit is unreasonable for many of these elderly clients. Some are choosing to skip visits, thus impacting recovery.

Once again, I ask that you support this legislation

Thank you for their time and if there are any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact me at Catherine.Meriano@Quinnipiac.edu.

Sincerely,



Catherine Meriano, JD, MHS, OTR/L